

Appln. No. 09/888,247  
Reply dated Jan. 20, 2006 to  
Interview Summary dated Dec. 20, 2005  
Docket No. 6169-190

IBM Docket No. BOC9-2000-0055

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) A monitoring tool comprising:
  - a placebo transaction dispatcher for dispatching placebo transactions to at least one subscribing e-commerce system;
  - a response collector for collecting responses to dispatched placebo transactions;
  - a logger for computing transaction latency data based upon when a placebo transaction is dispatched to said at least one subscribing e-commerce system, and when a response is received in said collector;
  - a multi-dimensional status array indexed by a URL and sample size of each at least one subscribing e-commerce system, said multi-dimensional status array comprising an indicator indicating that a placebo transaction has been submitted to a corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, an indicator indicating whether a response has been received from the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, transaction latency data associated with the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, and an average response time for the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system; and,
  - an alerter for alerting said subscribing e-commerce system when computed transaction latency data indicates an unreliable response condition in an associated back-end transaction processing system.
2. (Original) The monitoring tool of claim 1, further comprising a user interface through which a user can monitor said transaction latency data.

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3. (Original) The monitoring tool of claim 1, further comprising a list of references to a plurality of subscribing e-commerce systems, said dispatcher dispatching placebo transactions to each e-commerce system in said list, said collector collecting responses to said dispatched placebo transactions, said logger computing transaction latency data based upon when each placebo transaction is dispatched to a subscribing e-commerce system, and when a corresponding response is received in said collector, said alerter alerting individual subscribing e-commerce systems when computed transaction latency data for said individual subscribing e-commerce systems indicates an unreliable response condition in an associated back-end transaction processing system.

4. (Previously Presented) A monitoring tool comprising:

a placebo transaction dispatcher for dispatching placebo transactions to at least one back-end transaction processing system associated with a subscribing e-commerce system;

a response collector for collecting responses to dispatched placebo transactions;

a logger for computing transaction latency data based upon when a placebo transaction is dispatched to said back-end transaction processing system, and when a response is received in said collector;

a multi-dimensional status array indexed by a URL and sample size of each at least one subscribing e-commerce system, said multi-dimensional status array comprising an indicator indicating that a placebo transaction has been submitted to a corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, an indicator indicating whether a response has been received from the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, transaction latency data associated with the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, and an average response time for the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system; and,

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an alerter for alerting said subscribing e-commerce system when computed transaction latency data indicates an unreliable response condition in said at least one associated back-end transaction processing system.

5. (Original) The monitoring tool of claim 4, further comprising a user interface through which a user can monitor said transaction latency data.

6. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for detecting an unreliable response condition in at least one back-end transaction processing system associated with an e-commerce system comprising the steps of:

generating a placebo transaction;

dispatching said placebo transaction to the e-commerce system;

determining if a response to said placebo transaction is received;

if no response to said placebo transaction is received prior to detecting a time-out condition, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists in the at least one back-end transaction processing system;

if a response to said placebo transaction is received after period of time has elapsed from said dispatching of said placebo transaction which exceeds a latency threshold, notifying e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists in the at least one back-end transaction processing system; and

recording a plurality of elements in a multi-dimensional status array indexed by a URL and a sample size for each at least one back-end transaction processing system, said multi-dimensional status array comprising an indicator indicating that a placebo transaction has been submitted to a corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, an indicator indicating whether a response has been received from the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, an indicator indicating whether a latency threshold has

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been exceeded by the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, and an average response time for the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system.

7. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for detecting an unreliable response condition in at least one back-end transaction processing system associated with an e-commerce system comprising the steps of:

generating a placebo transaction;

dispatching said placebo transaction to the back-end transaction processing system;

determining if a response to said placebo transaction is received;

if no response to said placebo transaction is received prior to detecting a time-out condition, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists in the back-end transaction processing system;

if a response to said placebo transaction is received after period of time has elapsed from said dispatching of said placebo transaction which exceeds a latency threshold, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists in the back-end transaction processing system; and

recording a plurality of elements in a multi-dimensional status array indexed by a URL and a sample size for each at least one back-end transaction processing system, said multi-dimensional status array comprising an indicator indicating that a placebo transaction has been submitted to a corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, an indicator indicating whether a response has been received from the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, an indicator indicating whether a latency threshold has been exceeded by the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, and an average response time for the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system.

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8. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for detecting unreliable response conditions in a plurality of back-end transaction processing systems comprising the steps of:

reading a list of references to a plurality of subscribing e-commerce systems;

generating and dispatching placebo transactions to each e-commerce system in said list;

receiving responses to said dispatched placebo transactions;

computing transaction latency data based upon when each placebo transaction is dispatched to a subscribing e-commerce system, and when a corresponding response is received;

recording a plurality of elements in a multi-dimensional status array indexed by a URL and a sample size for each e-commerce system, said multi-dimensional status array comprising an indicator indicating that a placebo transaction has been submitted to a corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, an indicator indicating whether a response has been received from the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, transaction latency data associated with the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, and an average response time for the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system; and

notifying individual subscribing e-commerce systems when computed transaction latency data for said individual subscribing e-commerce systems indicates an unreliable response condition in an associated back-end transaction processing system.

9. (Previously Presented) A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for detecting an unreliable response condition in a back-end transaction processing system associated with an e-commerce system, said computer

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program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

- generating a placebo transaction;

- dispatching said placebo transaction to the back-end transaction processing system;

- determining if a response to said placebo transaction is received;

- if no response to said placebo transaction is received prior to detecting a time-out condition, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists in the back-end transaction processing system;

- if a response to said placebo transaction is received after period of time has elapsed from said dispatching of said placebo transaction which exceeds a latency threshold, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists in the back-end transaction processing system; and

- recording a plurality of elements in a multi-dimensional status array indexed by a URL and a sample size for said transaction processing system, said multi-dimensional status array comprising an indicator indicating that a placebo transaction has been submitted to a corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, an indicator indicating whether a response has been received from the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, an indicator indicating whether a latency threshold has been exceeded by the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, and an average response time for the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system.

10. (Previously Presented) A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for detecting an unreliable response condition in a back-end transaction processing system associated with an e-commerce system, said computer

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program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

- generating a placebo transaction;

- dispatching said placebo transaction to the back-end transaction processing system;

- determining if a response to said placebo transaction is received;

- if no response to said placebo transaction is received prior to detecting a time-out condition, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists in the back-end transaction processing system;

- if a response to said placebo transaction is received after period of time has elapsed from said dispatching of said placebo transaction which exceeds a latency threshold, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists in the back-end transaction processing system; and

- recording a plurality of elements in a multi-dimensional status array indexed by a URL and a sample size for said back-end transaction processing system, said multi-dimensional status array comprising an indicator indicating that a placebo transaction has been submitted to a corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, an indicator indicating whether a response has been received from the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, an indicator indicating whether a latency threshold has been exceeded by the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, and an average response time for the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system.

11. (Cancelled)